

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing risk on a project associated with a at least one change proposal directed toward the project, the project being developed by a service provider for a client, said method comprising:

receiving, from the client by the service provider, the at least one change proposal directed toward the project during a life cycle of the project, the change proposal requesting at least one amendment to be performed to the project being developed by the service provider;

identifying, based on the at least one amendment request, at least one artifact of the project to be potentially affected upon the change proposal being adopted; and

generating at least one metric indicative of the potential effects on the project based on said identifying the at least one artifact, the at least one metric providing an objective risk assessment for the service provider to provide the client and for allowing the service provider and the client to assess both direct and indirect risk before the at least one change proposal is adopted and to objectively make an informed business decision as to whether or not to adopt the at least one change proposal.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one metric includes a statistical value.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said generating includes performing a regression analysis.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the service provider is at least one of a consultant and a contractor.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the project is at least one of a document and a product.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying includes determining an artifact to be amended.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein said identifying the at least one artifact includes counting descendants of the artifact to be amended.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one metric includes a numerical representation of at least one of direct and indirect artifacts affected by the change proposal.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing risk on a project associated with a at least one change proposal directed toward the project, the project being developed by a service provider for a client, said system comprising:

means for receiving, from the client by the service provider, the at least one change proposal directed toward the project during a life cycle of the project, the at least one change proposal requesting at least one amendment to be performed to the project being developed by the service provider;

means for identifying, based on the at least one amendment request, at least one artifact of the project to be potentially affected upon the change proposal being adopted; and

means for generating at least one metric indicative of the potential effects on the project based on said identifying the at least one artifact, the at least one metric providing an objective risk assessment for the service provider to provide the client and for allowing the service provider and the client to assess both direct and indirect risk before the at least one change proposal is adopted and to objectively make an informed business decision as to whether or not to adopt the at least one change proposal.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive, from a client by a service provider, at least one the change proposal directed toward a project during a life cycle of the project, the project being developed by the a service provider for the a client, the at least one change proposal requesting at least one amendment to be performed to the project;

identify, based on the at least one amendment request, at least one artifact of the project to be potentially affected upon the change proposal being adopted; and

generate at least one metric indicative of the potential effects on the project based on said identifying the at least one artifact, the at least one metric providing an objective risk assessment for the service provider to provide the client and for allowing the service provider and the client to assess both direct and indirect risk before the at least one change proposal is adopted and to objectively make an informed business decision as to whether or not to adopt the at least one change proposal.

11-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the project is a requirements specification.

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the at least one metric includes a statistical value.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the means for generating includes performing a regression analysis.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the service provider is at least one of a consultant and a contractor.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the project is at least one of a document and a product.

34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the project is a requirements specification.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the means for identifying includes determining an artifact to be amended.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for identifying the at least one artifact includes counting descendants of the artifact to be amended.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the at least one metric includes a numerical representation of at least one of direct and indirect artifacts affected by the change proposal.